

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 168681

40

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DEA-05 CIAE-00 SNM-02 OMB-01 SS-15

AID-20 DEAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 AGR-20 HEW-08

DODE-00 /157 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:APSHANKLE:MRG

X-20661 8/23/73

APPROVED BY ARA/HWSHLAUDEMAN

DEA:J.R.BARTELS

CIA:S.R.BOLTEN

S/NM:T.PETERS

OMB:W.MINNICK

ARA:G.LISTER

----- 045118

P 241528Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 168681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS DEMARCHE TO ECHEVERRIA - INTELLIGENCE

SUMMARY

REF: STATE 164097

1. FOLLOWING IS THE USG INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT PROMISED
IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF REFTEL FOR AMBASSADOR'S USE IN DIS-
CUSSION WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA:

A. DESPITE INTENSIFIED US AND MEXICAN DRUG ENFORCE-
MENT EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES, THE AVAILABILITY OF BROWN
HEROIN IN THE US HAS GROWN AT AN ALARMING RATE DURING
THE PAST YEAR. ("BROWN HEROIN" IS FREQUENTLY RE-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 168681

FERRED TO AS "MEXICAN HEROIN," AND MOST OF IT AT

LEAST IS BELIEVED TO ORIGINATE IN MEXICO.) OUR STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1972, 92 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN SEIZED IN THE US WAS WHITE AND 8 PERCENT BROWN; BY 30 JUNE 1973, ONLY 62.8 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN SEIZED IN THE US WAS WHITE AND 37.2 PERCENT WAS BROWN. INTERROGATION OF DEFENDANTS AND INFORMANTS IN THE US IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS SHOWS A STEADY INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF BROWN HEROIN IN MEXICO AND IN THE US.

B. SEIZURES OF BROWN HEROIN AT POINTS ON THE US/ MEXICAN BORDER INCREASED FROM 188 TOTALLING 35 POUNDS IN 1970 TO 354 TOTALLING 73 POUNDS IN 1972. AS OF 9 AUGUST 1973, ONE US/MEXICAN BORDER POINT ALONE (SAN YSIDRO) HAD ALREADY SEIZED 60 POUNDS OF BROWN HEROIN JUST SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

C. EIGHT PERSONS (SOME MEXICAN CITIZENS, SOME US CITIZENS) ARRESTED IN CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON, TEXAS, AND ILLINOIS IN CASES WHICH EACH INVOLVED 250 GRAMS OR MORE OF BROWN HEROIN ADMITTED HAVING OBTAINED THE HEROIN FROM MEXICAN BORDER CITIES OR ELSEWHERE IN MEXICO, IN SUCH PLACES AS CULIACAN, TERREBLANCA, AND MONTERREY. SOME OF THE AFOREMENTIONED EXAMPLES ARE JUAN RAMON RAMIREZ, WHO WAS ARRESTED IN DECEMBER 1972 WITH 250 GRAMS OF HEROIN FROM CULIACAN, AND DAVID CANDANOZA, WHO SAID HE BOUGHT FOUR KILOS OF HEROIN IN TERRABLANCA. TWO DEFENDANTS WERE ARRESTED WITH A KILO OF BROWN HEROIN AND SOME MEXICAN ARTIFACTS WHICH THEY ADMITTED CAME FROM THE INTERIOR OF MEXICO. JUAN VILLAPUA, ARRESTED IN OCTOBER 1972 WITH 538.6 GRAMS OF HEROIN, ADMITTED HE OPERATED HIS OWN LABORATORY AT SAN LUIS IN SONORA.

D. IN ADDITION TO THE MEXICAN PRODUCED BROWN HEROIN SITUATION, US AUTHORITIES SEIZED OR RECEIVED DOCUMENTED INFORMATION ON SOME 4,274 KILOS OF EUROPEAN HEROIN WHICH TRANSITED MEXICO DURING THE PERIOD 1968 TO 1972. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS THE WORK OF WELL ORGANIZED GROUPS. MOST OR ALL OF THESE GROUPS ARE BELIEVED TO BE STILL OPERATING.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 168681

E. ILLICIT COCAINE HAS ALSO BECOME A SIGNIFICANT US PROBLEM. DURING FY 1973, SOME 239 POUNDS OF COCAINE WAS SEIZED WITHIN THE US, AS COMPARED WITH 309 POUNDS OF HEROIN SEIZED WITHIN THE US IN THE SAME PERIOD. ALTHOUGH THE COCA BUSH IS NOT GROWN IN MEXICO AND COCAINE IS NOT KNOWN TO BE PRODUCED THERE, COCAINE IS TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH MEXICO ENROUTE TO

THE US. A RECENT SURVEY OF 50 ARRESTED INTERNATIONAL COCAINE TRAFFICKERS SHOWS THAT 31 OF THE ARRESTS WERE MADE BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AND THAT 22 OF THE 31 WERE MEXICAN CITIZENS.

F. DANGEROUS DRUGS PRODUCED OR PACKAGED IN LEGAL MEXICAN LABORATORIES HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCOVERED IN LARGE QUANTITIES IN THE ILLICIT US TRAFFIC. A RECENT STUDY DOCUMENTED THE SHIPMENT OF SOME 6.5 TONS OF BULK BARBITURATE POWDER FROM EUROPE TO MEXICO IN 1971 AND 1972, AN AMOUNT FAR IN EXCESS OF ESTIMATED MEXICAN AND US LEGITIMATE MEDICAL NEEDS FOR BARBITURATES FOR THIS PERIOD. (FYI: MEXICO'S LEGITIMATE MEDICAL NEED IN THIS PERIOD IS ESTIMATED AT ONE TON. THE US MEDICAL NEED IS 1.553 TONS FOR 1973.)

2. FURTHER FOR AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION, A MAP DEPICTING THE INCREASED DISTRIBUTION OF BROWN HEROIN THROUGHOUT THE US, AND A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WILL BE SENT TO YOU. RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, DRUG CONTROL, HEROIN, COCAINE, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE168681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: APSHANKLE:MRG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LAUDEMAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730816/aaaaaluc.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 164097
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS DEMARCHE TO ECHEVERRIA - INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
TAGS: SNAR, MX, US
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005